

## **REMARKS:**

### **SPECIFICATION**

Applicant has amended the title of the invention to "A prosthetic hearing device that transforms a detected speech into a speech having a speech form assistive in understanding the semantic meaning in the detected speech", which Applicant believes is more descriptive of the present invention. Nonetheless, Applicant would appreciate any suggestions from the Examiner regarding the title of the invention.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the term "syntactically different form" in claim 39 as not disclosed in the specification. In the above amendment, Applicant has cancelled claim 39.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the term "library of formants" in claims 44 and 45. In the above amendment, Applicant has amended "formants" to "sample speech data". The sample speech data is discussed in, for instance, the paragraph starting with "Moreover" in lines 7-13 on page 29 of the substitute specification.

The Examiner also objects to the term "abridging the content" in claim 47. In the above amendment, Applicant has amended "abridging the content" to "summarizes the detected speech." Summarizing a speech is discussed in, for instance, lines 8-10 on page 23 of the substitute specification.

### **CLAIMS**

Claims 1-34 were previously cancelled. Claims 35-52 were elected and examined on the merit, of which claims 39, 46 and 50 have been cancelled in the above amendment. Claims 53-111 have been withdrawn from examination. Claims 112 and 113 have been added in the amendment.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 112**

In response to the claim objections noted in paragraph 8 of the Office Action, Applicant has cancelled or amended claims 39, 44, 45 and 47 as discussed above.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 102**

Claims 35, 36, 38, 39 and 41 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Marley (4,181,813). Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are not anticipated by Marley.

As made clear by the above amendment, in claim 35, a detected speech, after subjected through the speech recognition process, is transformed into a speech having a speech form assistive in understanding the semantic meaning of in the detected speech. The transformation performed in claim 35 does not mean just converting speech data verbatim into a text form but rather changing its speech form. An example of speech transformation discussed in the specification is changing "BIG MAC" into "MACDONALD's BIG MAC". (page 10 of the substitute specification).

Marley is directed only to speech recognition and silent about transformation of a speech. The Examiner points out column 3, lines 4-7 of Marley which reads on the feature of speech transformation. That part of Markey reads, "It is another object of the invention to provide a system and method for speech recognition which is unlimited by the syntax and semantics of groups of words." As indicated itself, this part is still directed to "speech recognition" and not to "speech transformation."

Since claim 35 is not anticipated by Markey, claims 36, 38 and 41 (claim 39 has been cancelled) should not be anticipated by the reference because these claims depend on claim 35.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 103**

The rest of the claims are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marley in view of the other references.

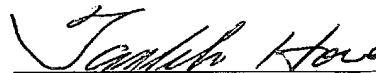
The type of speech transformation to which claim 35 is directed is not disclosed or taught by Marley or any other cited references. Therefore, claim 35 is not obvious over any cited references. Since claim 35 is not obvious over any cited references, the rest of the claims should also not be obvious over the references.

### NEW CLAIMS 112 AND 113

Applicant has added new claims 112 and 113 in the above amendment. In claim 112, speech recognition is performed in view of at least one of a physical state of the user, an operating condition of the prosthetic hearing device and a purpose for use of the device by the user. In claim 113, speech transformation is performed in view of at least one of a physical state of the user, an operating condition of the prosthetic hearing device and a purpose for use of the device by the user. It is believed that there is nothing in any of the cited references that discloses or teaches these features.

As discussed on page 8 of the substitute specification, the 'user's physical state' might be, for example, the severity of the user's hearing impairment or speech disorder. The 'operating conditions' refers, for instance, to the environment in which the prosthetic hearing device is being used (indoors or outdoors, noisy environment, etc.), and the 'purpose for use' refers, for example, to the user's reason for using the prosthetic hearing device (such as improved recognition or easier understanding of speech by the user). The purpose for use may be, for example, to facilitate conversation with familiar people, conversation with a number of unspecified people, attendance at public performances (opera music, etc.), listening to lectures, or conversation with a speech impaired individual.

Respectfully submitted,



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